

# IN FOCUS

The Official Publication of the Jamaican Canadian Association  
E-mail: [info@jcassoc.org](mailto:info@jcassoc.org)

May 2009 Issue

## JAMAICA NEEDS YOUR INVESTMENT

Rosemarie Hylton

The Honorable Dr. Kenneth Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trades of Jamaica made an appearance at a Town Hall Meeting at the JCA on March 25, 2009. He was well received by a large audience for his first official visit to Canada in his present position. This event was organized with the leadership of the Jamaica's Consul General of Toronto. Ms. Anne Marie Bonner introduced Dr. Baugh, listing his numerous credentials and achievements and describing him as a dedicated human being with the interest of Jamaica at heart.



Dr. Kenneth Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister surrounded by JCA Board of Director members and CEO

As Dr. Baugh spoke, his captive audience heard his recount of the plans the Jamaican government has for the economic development of the country.

The plans include a development component for free trade agreements with a direct movement away from the non-reciprocal agreements of the past and economic partnership with Europe where a gradual phasing in of market access over a 25 year period would take place.

He explained that Jamaica currently has full access to European markets and insisted on development opportunities to build modern factories and increase Jamaica's ability to be competitive. (See P5)

## JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION ON THE JOURNEY TO GREEN CHANGE

Rosemarie Powell

In a recent Board of Directors meeting, the Jamaican Canadian Association took a commitment to become a Green Change Agency and participate in a new and innovative project being initiated in the Jane and Finch community under the leadership of the Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre, the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation. The project is funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and campaign sponsored by You Only Green. This project will encourage community members, organizations and local businesses to save energy, reduce waste and maintain healthy lifestyles; thereby reducing their greenhouse gas emissions. JCA is on the destination to green change and is encouraging all members to get on board!

The focus on energy reduction in the home is crucial because the Government of Ontario has directed that by the year 2010, all separately metered residential properties in

Ontario are required to be fitted with smart meters. What's more, the federal government recently cancelled its EnerGuide program, which would have helped 130,000 low-income households. Thankfully, as reported in the Toronto Star, the Ontario Energy Board put an abrupt ban on the use of smart meters in residential apartment buildings, sending a message to landlords who are increasingly off-loading the cost of electricity to their tenants. This will give tenants time to better respond to this significant change in their lifestyle. To minimise their costs, people can take advantage of many of the tax incentives and other government programs to retrofit their homes. They can purchase energy efficient bulbs and energy star household appliances that reduce energy.

The second focus, waste management, is also important as it has also been extremely difficult for the City to progress their waste management strategies in this community. According to the City of Toronto

apartments and condominiums recycle only 13% of waste. That means 87% of the garbage generated goes to the landfill. To counter this, The City has started to levy solid waste management fees on building owners. As of July 1, 2008, building owners are now being required to pay a fee for garbage collection based on how much garbage is set out by building residents. These costs inadvertently are being passed on to the building residents.

One initiative being considered moving forward is the implementation of community gardens on different TCHC building sites. It is well understood that green spaces serve as lungs for our city by reducing carbon and nitrogen from the atmosphere, pumping out fresh oxygen and water vapour. (See P4)

**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING  
MAY 31, 2009  
AT 1 PM**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Audrey Campbell

**JAMAICAN  
CANADIAN  
ASSOCIATION**  
995 Arrow Road  
North York, ON  
M9M 2Z5  
Tel.: (416) 746-5772  
Fax: (416) 746-7035

www.jcassoc.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Audrey Campbell,**  
*PRESIDENT*  
**Carol Fox,**  
*Treasurer*  
**Kellie Spence,**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
**Owen Dunbar,**  
*Building Chair*  
**Sylvanus Thompson,**  
*Education Chair*  
**Edna Smith-Bowes,**  
*Fundraising Chair*  
**Pam Reynolds,**  
*Membership Chair*  
**Dwaine Osbourne,**  
*Youth Chair*  
**Charmaine Sewell,**  
*Women's Chair*  
**Rosemarie Powell,**  
*Public Relations Chair*

The decision has been made, I will be staying on as President completing the term to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. As we move forward the focus continues to be on fundraising to pay down the mortgage, the internal structure of JCA, as well as working on community outreach and advocacy.

As reported in the previous news letter our goal was to hire a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to run the Social Services Division. This was the first step in implementing the recommendations of the organizational review we under took last year. After an extensive search we are very proud to announce that we have hired Michael Foster as the new

Chief Executive Officer (CEO). His responsibilities encompass oversight of all staff and programs as well as building operations. He reports directly to the Board. Since joining us on March 9<sup>th</sup>, Michael has implemented the new software program Income Manager. One of the benefits of this program is that it will allow tax receipts to be produced much easier than the old system. This, as most you are aware, has been a challenge for us in the past. Michael has embraced his new position with the JCA and has been an active participant in our members based programs, Walk-a-Thon, Spelling Bee, for example. Please join me in welcoming Michael and wish him continued success.

A recurring theme will be our focus on Fundraising. The raffle campaign is well under way. To date 50% of the tickets have been distributed but there is still a ways to go. We encourage your full support as the money raised will go directly towards the mortgage. At \$2 each, the tickets are an easy sale. Please contact our Fundraising Chair, JCA for more information. The next major initiative will be the Direct Mail campaign, soliciting \$1 for each year of JCA's existence. This event will be slated to

coincide with JCA's anniversary.

JCA continues to play an intricate role in the community. In March we hosted a town hall meeting in conjunction with Jamaican Consulate and other community agencies to review the report on the 'Root Cause of Youth Violence'. Dr. Curling, the co-author of the report, was the guest speaker and also took questions from the community. Along that vein, another town hall meeting will be held in mid July with Chief Bill Blair. As details are confirmed they will be posted on our web site. The goal of these meetings is to come up with positive solutions surrounding the youth violence in our community.

Finally, I am excited about the direction in which the organization is going. As always, on behalf of the Board, we are grateful for the support of the membership and look forward to a prosperous future.

Continued Success.

## New Scholarship Fund for JCA Youth Members

The JCA Past Presidents' Scholarship Fund was launched by six (6) former presidents of the Jamaican Canadian Association in October 2008. The past presidents reviewed plethora of scholarships being awarded annually at the JCA and discovered that there was none targeted specifically to the members of JCA and their children. They then decided to remedy this situation by establishing a scholarship fund for the children of JCA members and young JCA members.

The scholarship is aimed at encouraging young people to become active as volunteers in community issues, especially those that young people. The past

presidents especially wish to reward those persons involved with the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program and any other activities by the JCA or other community organizations.

To be eligible for this scholarship the applicant must be a youth who is a JCA member or a child or other relative of a JCA member; has been actively involved in community activities; is entering university or college as a first year student; and is in need of financial assistance. Applicants are required to submit a 200-word paper that states his/her career aspirations, life goals and why he/she should be selected.

The past presidents have

committed to making annual contributions of a minimum of \$500 in order to establish a \$20,000 endowment while concurrently offering a \$1000 scholarship to an eligible candidate each year commencing in 2009. Each year the scholarship will be presented in honour of a participating former president.

Additional details on selection criteria, application forms, and application deadlines for this and several other JCA Scholarships and Bursaries can be found on the JCA website.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



Michael Foster, CEO

As I sit in deep thought to write my first newsletter report as your new Chief Executive Officer, I have a feeling of euphoria in being in a place where there is so much history. As I reflect on my first month at the JCA, meeting two founding members, the Jamaican Consul General, the Jamaican High Commissioner and the Deputy Prime Minister of Jamaica, Dr. Kenneth Baugh, caused enough adrenaline rush for me to put in perspective all the opportunities and challenges that lies ahead. The level of dedication from members, Board, staff, volunteers and friends of the JCA is an example to be measured up to. All of this was made possible by a group of people who had a vision that was later translated into a mission backed by solid objectives.

I was drawn to the not-for-profit charitable sector some years ago because of the personal satisfaction I get from helping people. I worked as Finance and Administration Manager and Acting Executive Director in the sector and am quite familiar with all aspects of funders reporting and submissions. It was quite easy for me to choose the JCA as my place of work. As a Jamaican "born under the clock", a social service charitable organization with a vibrant membership, founded by Jamaicans and serves people in the Caribbean-African community was a magnetism that was hard to resist.

The Collective Agreement between the JCA and CUPE has been in place since December 2008 and I am quite pleased to work with such a knowledgeable and passionate staff. The social service sector can be quite challenging with not the greatest of financial rewards but I believe that success comes not necessarily by working harder but also by working smarter. I believe in "participative management" and practice "management by walking around

(MBWA)." I would like to acknowledge Karen Brown in getting me acquainted to "where things are at" and thank her for all the help given in the transition period.

The database that manages our membership has become obsolete. We have transferred the membership data into a more robust and efficient system called, Income Manager. This system will manage both the membership and donation. After training is completed on the system we should see membership renewals and donation receipts going out on a timely basis. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our members, funders and friends of the JCA for their generous contributions.

On the social service side the JCA has been offering some amazing programs. Our Caribbean Canadian Seniors Club meets twice per week and is involved in various activities. I enjoy interacting with them. We are currently looking at ways in enhancing the program and to provide more variety. The Saturday Morning Tutorial Program provides assistance to grades 1-9 students who need help to improve their academic performance. Kellie has been doing some exceptional work with the students. Opportunity Plus is a job preparation program for unemployed workers 45 years and over. Over the past year the program served 155 clients. In the Caribbean Youth and Family Service area the Leaders in Partnership Program is being delivered in three schools and has been quite successful. Our Violence Against Women and Youth Outreach Worker programs continue to do out-reach to the community respectively. The Newcomer Settlement and the Settlement Adaptation Programs continue to fill the needs of new immigrants to Canada. One of the main challenges of all the programs is that the JCA does not have a Case Management System to do intake and manage client records. We will be exploring this in the near future.

The JCA financial year ended on March 31, 2009 and the audit of the financial records will commence in early May. My vision for the JCA is to have the social service aspect of the organization more publicized and expanded to include satellite offices in the GTA. Also, to grow the membership to have more people involved in the decision making process.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers serving on various committees helping to make the JCA a place where we can all feel proud of.

Respectfully,

## STAFF LIST

Michael Foster, Chief Executive Officer

## ADMINISTRATION

Janet Neilson, Resource Development Coordinator  
Marie Chapman, Receptionist  
Nikita Hollingsworth, Social Services Intern  
Wainworth Morrison, Finance Director  
Jacklyn Padilla, Bookkeeper

## BUILDING

Desmond Marriot, Custodian  
Jennifer McFarlane, Building Operator  
Randy Smith, Custodian

## CARIBBEAN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES (CYFS)

Beverly Valentine, Intake Worker  
Grace Williams, K-Club Counselor  
Pamela Seaton-Brissett, LIP Counselor  
Paulette Crooks-Drummond, Supervisor & Parenting Counselor

## NEWCOMER SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Joe Boetang, Supervisor & Counselor  
Sonia Deacon, Counselor

## OPPORTUNITY PLUS +

Sandra Holness, Coordinator  
Annmarie Whyte, Administrative Assistant  
Dawn Brown, Job Developer  
Noeline John, Employment Councilor

## YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER (YOW) AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) PROGRAMS

Karen Brown, VAW and YOW Coordinator  
Mary Mark, YOW Team Lead  
Troy Logan, Youth Outreach Worker  
Charmaine Lane, VAW Counselor



## Domino Club Annual Dinner

### Join a committee:

- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Building
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Finance



Rosemarie Hylton

On March 21, 2009; the JCA Domino Club held its Annual Dinner.

The hall was filled with the mellow sounds of reggae music, festive laughter and the sweet aroma of good food. There was an air of friendly competition throughout the evening's event as teams sat at multiple tables attempting to best their opponents. Donald Grant, Club Chair; Josephine Spence, Club Secretary and Amy Henry,

Club treasurer were all in attendance.

The Domino Club was started in 1990 to allow individuals to get together in comradeship. Members meet and play alternate Fridays and Saturdays

and pay minimal monthly dues. The membership is currently 42 strong and growing. Anyone can join; it is an all age's event. The Club Chair states the members are encouraged to join the JCA as well. Mr. Grant relayed the Clubs pride in being able to continuously donate to the JCA from their fundraising efforts. Mr. Grant and Ms. Spence also indicated the Club is eager to plan a larger scale fundraising event and start a Scholarship for the JCA. They take their contributions to the JCA seriously as they have use of the building.

For those who are ready for good fun and fellowship, the JCA Domino Club is the place to be.

## Spelling



Ian Edwards

You are correct! - Infamous, encouraging words spoken by our own Audrey Campbell, judge, at the fourth annual Spelling Bee of Canada competition.

Congratulations to the nearly 200 contestants, (aged 6 - 14), who descended upon the JCA on May 26. These hard workers studied and practiced for several months in preparation for the event. They impressed the audience with their mastery of challenging words.

In the Primary category, Shahraz Nauman and Anirudh Ravipati, both of Daystrom Public School finished

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. Nidhi Parikh of Downsview P.S. finished in third place.

In the Junior category, Jill Craven of Fieldstone Day School finished in first place, Muran Ganesan of Pierre Laporte Middle School finished in second, and Wilhermina Amoabeng of St. Jane Frances finished third.

In the Intermediate category, Merany Ganesan of Vaughan Rd. Academy placed first, second place went to Sivani Vijayakumar of William Lyon Collegiate, and Mimta Chowdhury of Amesbury Middle School placed third.

Besides expanding their vocabulary, all of the competitors learned the

important life-skills of how to communicate clearly and confidently with others, and to organize their thoughts before speaking. According to Julie Spence (president and founder of Spelling Bee of Canada), when young people such as these learn study skills, practice self-discipline, and have the courage to step out of a comfort zone to accept challenges, they are all winners!

A special thank you goes to organizer Sylvanus Thompson and the many volunteers who helped to make this event a tremendous success! We look forward to seeing more of our young people on stage again next year!

## JCA on the Journey to Green Change Cont.

Creating community gardens with the cooperation of families and volunteers have been shown to revitalize neglected areas.

The Green Economy has emerged as a significant global issue affecting the community. George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, is quoted saying "There exists today a global race to establish the policies, attract the investment and build the foundation for the green economy that is sure to sustain future prosperity and progress. It is a race Ontario is determined to win.

Proposed legislation - the Green Energy Act - would help Ontario become the preferred destination for green jobs, green investment and green energy."

Organisations, including the Jamaican Canadian Association, are in the process of forming a coalition with unions to examine more long term strategies to advocate to the government to invest money to create opportunities for youth and residents to benefit from the green economy. This coalition will focus on implementing change mechanisms that will build the capacity of our youth and redirect their energy to a

more productive and viable future. Environmental stewardship goes hand in hand with community economic development. The possibilities are endless.

It is important that we look at the opportunities around us, value and protect our natural resources, build our capacity to innovate and fight for access to a better future for ourselves and the future



We're on the Web  
[www.jcassoc.org](http://www.jcassoc.org)

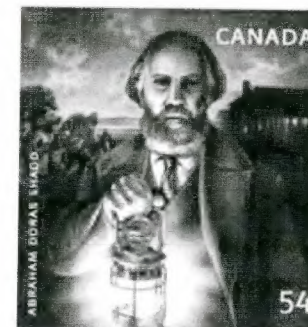
## TID BITS

Alton Telfer

The long awaited spring time has finally come. During the first two weeks in May, it appeared as if winter was still within our borders, so much so that most of the small farmers and gardeners deferred their planting season to two weeks later. Hopefully the necessary change will come and we will begin to enjoy a bright and more pleasant summer. It has been said that a bad winter is normally followed by a good summer, therefore, I am fairly certain that you, like most of us are anxiously anticipating the reality of this analogy.

Since the year begun, there have been many occurrences, especially as it relates to JCA. The most significant is the resignation of our President, Herman Stewart. This news reached me while I was visiting in Jamaica and I was depressed from then on. Reason is that Herman is committed to JCA and during the many years, he has done so much to move the association forward. In short, with him around JCA, is better-off and we hate to see him go. I must however congratulate Audrey Campbell (Vic-President at the time), for taking control and continue to steer the ship into calm waters. Today there is no down-side envisaged. It is business as usual and she deserves to be profoundly congratulated.

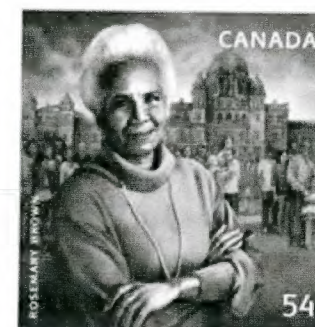
It would be fitting at this time to extend my congratulations to certain individuals and areas where achievements have been made. This includes the Federal



government of Canada for the vision to publicly honour the late Rosemary Brown and Abraham Shadd with a fifty four cent postage stamp to mark "Black History Month" during February of this year. Rosemary was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1930 and moved to Canada in 1950. Among her many accomplishments, she served in the British Columbia legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1986 making her the first Black woman to be elected to a Canadian federal party. Abraham Shadd came to settle in North Buxton, Ontario in 1851 and was very active in the anti-slavery movement especially as it relates

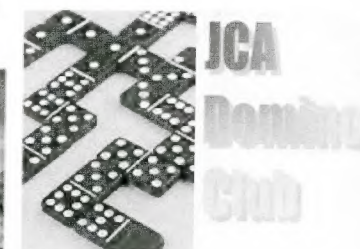
to the Under-ground Railroad. He was the first Black to be elected to a political office; a counsellor of Raleigh Township in 1994, a road that traverses North Buxton was named Abe Shadd Road in his honour.

Robert Sutherland is another Jamaican that made history in Canada. He was the first Black person to graduate at a Canadian university and the first Black to pursue a law degree in



North America. Sutherland entered Queens University in 1849 and won fourteen academic prizes. He graduated in 1852 with honours and was qualified to practice law, which he did on Walerton Ontario where he settled. He died in 1878 at age forty eight (48) and left his entire estate valued at \$12,000 to Queens University which helped to put the university on a solid financial path after its existence was threatened by a bank crisis.

To conclude I wish you and your family a very safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.



The JCA Domino Club meets on Fridays or Saturdays every week at the Jamaican Canadian Association inside the Games Room.

Call for more information:

Josephine Spence:  
416-570-7601

Gifford Walker:  
416-222-4695

## JCA Needs Your Investment Cont.

According to Mr. Baugh, Jamaica's current debt is 115% of the GDP, 50% of the budget goes to the service debt, which takes away from social service needs. Dr. Baugh talked about the effects of the current global economy crisis, stating Jamaica was unable to offer the bailout packages offered in the United States, however, they put out mild packages as a safety net as means of protecting rising interest rates which are damaging to business.

He explained Jamaica will survive through building strong partnerships with other developing and industrialized countries. Most importantly he urged Jamaicans abroad invest in their home country in new and emerging markets.

During the question and answer period of the town hall meeting, many individuals voiced their willingness to invest as well as their concerns about the crime and corruption that are present within the country. Individuals repeatedly asked for assurances that their investments would be safe. Mr. Baugh listened intently to the concerns and offered suggestions and explanations and he personally committed to following up on some individual situations brought to his attention by the audience.

The economic future of Jamaica affects all Jamaican's world wide. For those who have the means and the ability to invest, they can answer the call of the Deputy Prime Minister. As he so eloquently explained, Jamaican's

bring to him a feeling of pride in the strength of the people of the country. The Diaspora has historically committed to supporting individuals and businesses in Jamaica from abroad and will continue to do so. There is an overall positive outlook on the future and a sense that Jamaica will survive through building strong partnerships with other developing and industrialized countries. Most significantly there is an urge for Jamaicans abroad to invest in their home country in new and emerging markets.



# Domino Club Annual Dinner



# JCA Events and Partnerships



# Spelling B Competition



# JCA Out and About in the Community





## WOMEN'S SPACE

Dear members,  
Thank you for reading  
this latest edition of  
the IN FOCUS  
newsletter.  
We would like to invite  
you to submit your  
poetry and articles to  
the In Focus Editorial  
Committee.



Charmaine Sewell, Chair

The Women's Committee has been busy planning and hosting programs in keeping with our mandate to promote women's issues. Our Planning Committee met on several occasions to review and implemented some changes to our mandate for the next five (5) years.

Professor Enid Collins, Professor Emeritus at Ryerson University, was our guest at our meeting in September. Dr. Collins joined us to discuss her new book; "Working with Immigrant Women".

Our annual "Community Gifting" and movie presentation was held in November. The recipient of the 2008 contributions was Eva's Place. Our Film Presentation was: "The Fannie Lou Hamer Story".

In the spirit that exemplifies this



organization, the committee donated \$300.00 on behalf of the JCA, to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, specifically to the Grandmother to Grandmother Project which assists grandparents who are raising their grandchildren alone due to the deaths of the parents from HIV/AIDS.

In March the Committee celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in hosting International Women's Day. We marked the occasion by paying special tributes to Dr. Jean Augustine, Ms. Marie Clarke-Walker and Dr. Inez Elliston. These women were recognized for their continuous support to the JCA and the Women's Committee over the years. The celebrations were held in partnership with the Women's Intercultural Network,

who presented Pam Powell with the Dr. Vara P. Singh Award for her years of community service.

Ms. Amy Nelson was honoured at this year's Mary Kay Canada Conference for her unyielding dedication to volunteering in the International Community. We congratulate both these women on their much deserved recognitions. The Women's Committee thanks all our speakers for giving of their time and expert advice. We thank our friends and all others for their continued support as we strive for socio-economic justice for women everywhere. We are dedicated to our mission and our vision for growth remains strong, as we work towards enriching the lives of all women. Thank you!

### IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRE

Immigrant Women's Health Centre (IWHC) has been making strides to improve the health care for immigrant, refugee and women of color in Toronto since 1975. The all-female staff understands the unique difficulties that immigrant women face accessing health services and makes it top priority to address these barriers.

Immigrant Women face numerous barriers that prevent them from accessing health care such as, language, cost, distance, status and scheduling conflicts to mention a few. The centre makes it easier for women by providing counseling in core languages which include, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Twi, Ga, Ewe, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Hindu, Urdu, Punjabi, Farsi, and Tagalog. This enables women to communicate their sexual health needs in a welcoming environment.

Undocumented or newcomer immigrant women may also find it difficult to access health care due to costs. Women without health coverage pay an average of \$50 per checkup and even more if other tests are needed, such as ultrasounds, mammograms to name a few. IWHC provides free services such as pap tests, breast exams, pregnancy tests, testing for sexually transmitted infections and treatment and also sells emergency birth control at a reduced cost.

IWHC has a Mobile Health Clinic which was started in 1981 and has since become an integral part of the services provided at IWHC. The staff at IWHC recognized that many working women were unable to take time off of work for doctor appointments, and were also uncomfortable seeing male doctors for exams such as pap tests. The Mobile Health Clinic provides direct

counseling and an opportunity for women to see a doctor for pap tests, breast exams and sexually transmitted infection testing at the doorstep of women- ESL classes, skill training classes, women's centres, community centres, malls, places of work and places of worship in the Greater Toronto Area.

IWHC welcomes diversity and respects women's strength and believes women have the right and ability to make informed choices about their health, including their sexual health.

IWHC is located at 489 College Street West

To book an appointment or to schedule the Mobile Health Unit call 416-323-9986 (Amanda)

## Education and Culture

### Black History Month Celebration - A Recap

The Mad Typist © 2009

"...Oh but my joy of today  
Is that we can all be proud to say  
To be young, gifted and black  
Is where its at..." - Nina Simone

These are lyrics to a song ("To be Young gifted and Black") that became the civil rights anthem in the United States in the 1970s and an anthem for many around the world. It was also a celebration song that was performed in dance by CR Marchant Middle School who displayed their talents to a packed audience of mostly fellow students and teachers for the annual JCA's Black History Month celebration on Thursday February 26 put on by the Education Committee Chair, Sylvanus Thompson, and JCA staff, Mary Mark.

Special guests in attendance were Ms. Anne Marie Bonner, Jamaica Consul General, The Canadian Arm Forces lead by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Zalvin, Toronto Police Services lead by Police Constable Judith Russell, Official Black History Month poster designer, Robert Small, JCA Board members led by

President Audrey Campbell.

Sylvanus Thompson opened up the celebration by welcoming the crowd to the JCA. Tiki Mercury Clarke sang the Canadian National Anthem and the Black Anthem. Rev. Paulette Drummond, a JCA Staff and a Chaplain for the Toronto Police, followed with a prayer. And then, the celebration began. The celebration acknowledged the many people of African descendants in the past and present who have sacrificed, achieved and helped to pave the path for the continued growth of the African people. It also encouraged the nurturing of the black youths who will carry on the legacy of change and racial progress in their community at large. The Master of Ceremonies Mrs. Letna Allen-Rowe was very entertaining and offered an abundance of advice.

Special guest speaker, Honorable Justice Kofi Barnes, reminded the students of those such as Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King and

President Abraham Lincoln, who made sacrifices on behalf of African descendants and fought for freedom and equality for all. His message to the audience was to, "Ensure their death and sacrifices were not in vain. Believe in yourself and work hard." Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Zalvin gave recognition to the many African descendants in the army who have stood alongside fellow soldiers in the protection of this great country of Canada. Police Constable Judith Russell of the Toronto Police Services reminded students of the many opportunities that await them if they stay in high school and pursue higher education. Robert Small, creator of the Official Black History Month poster, encouraged the students to have a strong will power as it will eventually help them to handle tough challenges and take charge of opportunities.

Thank you CR Marchant for the reminder...

*Young, gifted and black  
We must begin to tell our young  
Theres a world waiting for you  
This is a quest thats just  
begun..."*

**Western Caribbean Cruise  
for two—\$2  
All inclusive trip for two to  
Jamaica—\$2  
Trip to Jamaica with \$500  
cash—\$2  
Flat screen television—\$2  
Laptop—\$2  
Dirt Bike—\$2  
Retiring the mortgage  
by our 50th  
Anniversary...  
PRICELESS**

Participating Schools:

CR Marchant Middle School  
Emery Collegiate Institute  
Fletcher's Meadow Secondary  
School  
Beverly Heights MS  
Elia Middle School  
PEACH S.A.S  
Martin Grove C.I  
Nelson A. Boylen C.I  
Brookview middle School  
Sir Sanford Fleming Academy

## The Williams Family Raise Funds at Birthday Celebration for "Yes Wi Can" Campaign

Dwaine Osbourne

A father, a grand father, a family man, a husband, a colleague, a businessman, a professor, a friend, a JCA member and a JCA past President - words my pen could go on to describe Mr. Roy Williams who celebrated all these many titles in one night under the ambience of the JCA halls. The word was out that there was going to be a surprise birthday party for Mr. Williams and I definitely was going to be there...Nice! Now, I have the great pleasure to share the beautiful night with everyone. Please read on...

The party was organized by Roy's wife, Mrs. Grace Williams. She led the guests into a journey through a collage of pictures, snapshots of Mr. Williams' life. There were pictures with the family, sitting at his house in Mandeville hills, rubbing shoulders with former Jamaica Prime Minister, Michael Manley, being a member of the Police Service Board, to the days being at the helm of the JCA and other assortment of pictures. It was hard to keep up with the list of distinguished guests that were present at this party while enjoying the conversations, the food and the entertainment.

Toronto Police Deputy Chief, Keith Forde, gave thanks to Roy for being a part of the



Police Service board that helped pave the way for other qualified minority officers to be elevated to higher positions in the force. Past President, Vincent Conville, gave homage to Roy, JCA's first president, who helped to lay the framework for the operational structure of the JCA. As an example of his great leadership, he, in his tenure as President of the association, ensured that a portion of the funds received from every JCA function went toward education. Cheryl Williams, daughter, supported her father's stance on education. She shared with the audience the story of her

youth when she and her siblings would at times have to submit a business plan to justify what they wanted money to do - in so doing, Roy has created current successful Williams entrepreneurs.

The food and service was great - Mrs. Williams was on top of everything from greeting to organizing the serving of the food and pouring of champagne. Jay Douglas and his band helped to deliver the entertainment for the night which had an infusion of Roy's bloodline- his son played the drums. Disco by Duke and Rick. Continuing with the bloodline, a granddaughter was more than happy to sing a tribute to her grandfather. Beautiful!

It got better when the celebrated gentleman took the podium to give thanks to his wife, his family and guests. He drew attention to the collage of pictures that was shown at the beginning of the night by bringing us through some of the history and involvement with people from different walks of life. Cheers to the birthday 'boy'. The party also honoured Raymond, Roy's step-son as their birthdays are only one day apart.

...Now for the icing on the cake - Mrs. Williams asked her guests to give generously to the JCA building mortgage. She raised over \$4,000 from Roy's party. Cheers!



The Public Relations Committee is responsible for the publication of the JCA In Focus. Members are:

Rosemarie Powell, Chair  
Rosemarie Hylton  
Dwayne Osbourne  
Alton Telfer  
Sheila Raymond  
Pauline Reynolds  
Zenover Brown  
Herman Stewart

Letters and submissions are welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for content and length.

If you would like to volunteer on a sub-committee, please contact the Membership Chair at 416 746 5772 ext 249.

# JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION IN FOCUS

## Youth Highlights



MC, Del Miller with of Denise Sinclair of Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS)

### Rosemarie Powell

The Spring Business Social, held Sunday May 24 was a huge success. The only way it could have been better, was to have had more people in turn out. The quality of the presentations were exceptional. David Peart, Director

of business Development of the Canadian Business Club led participants in discussion of how to create career opportunities in a New Economy. Followed by our very own CEO, Michael Foster who spoke about getting to the next level in the No-Profit Sector. Delford Blythe, Tax Accountant excited the audience during his talk about how to make a "dolla holla" and take charge of your personal finances. Tracey Mighty, Management Consultant, addressed the entrepreneurs in the crowd, informing them of how to position their business for 2010. To cap the evening, Brother Kwame, Co-owner of Breath of Life engaged the crowd in a meditation session and explained techniques of how to stay positive and healthy while on their career path. The food,

particularly the soup, provided by Brother Kwame was delicious, despite not containing any meat. There was a consensus from the participants that this type of event should happen more often at the very least, annually. The support from the Board was also very satisfying. All committees had a hand in organizing, setting up and participating in the event. Congratulations to Kellie Spence for initiating this great event and to Dwayne Osbourne, Dan Hamilton and Rosemarie Powell for planning it. Most importantly, thank to Victoria Mutual, for their foresight when they agreed to sponsor the event. Without their support, there would be no way, like the United Way motto goes.

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES CORNER

### Pam Reynolds, Chair



**The Annual Picnic** will be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2009. We have reserved Hart Lake Park in Brampton for this year's Picnic. Two buses have been chartered. There will be lots of

activities especially for children, so please buy your tickets early.

**The Flag Raising Ceremony:** As part of the trio of Independence events, the committee assisted with the planning for the Flag Raising Ceremony which went very well. Many important members of the community, politicians, representatives from government agencies, the consular corps and members of the JCA community were in attendance.

### YOU ARE INVITED!

Always looking for new members! The Membership Committee meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at

6:30 p.m. at the JCA Centre. Consider joining our team. There is a standing invitation to anyone wishing to join our committee drop by and check us out at the next Committee meeting on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>.

For further information please see me at the end of the meeting or call the JCA office at 416 746 5772 ext 249.

Thank you for allowing me to serve; we can achieve great things if we work together and so I am looking forward to us working together as "Team JCA" for the good of the organization in the coming year.

### UPCOMING EVENTS BEFORE THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING

Please note: The following event dates were submitted to the Public Relations Committee by the printing deadline

Event	Committee	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09
Annual Jamaica Summit	Youth	5		
Father's Day Brunch	Fundraising	21		
SMTF Road to Success Event	Education and Cultural	27		
"Yes Wi Can" Raffle Launch	Fundraising	12		
Women's Economic Seminar	Women's	27		
Annual Picnic	Membership		5	
Independence Gala	Board of Directors			8
Flag Raising	Board of Directors			2
10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Charity	Fundraising		15	
Quarterly Meeting	Board of Directors			23

In Focus is published quarterly by the Jamaican Canadian Association 995 Arrow Road, Toronto, ON M9M 2Z5 Phone: 416-746-5772 Fax: 416-746-7035 E-mail: info@jcassoc.org



## "Leaders of Tomorrow" Summer Day Camp 2009

The JCA is now accepting registration for our Annual Summer Day Camp for Children 7-13 years

Where: JCA Community Centre 995 Arrow Road (south of Finch Ave. W/east of Weston Rd)

Dates: June 29 to August 21

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Monday - Friday)

Cost: \$50.00 Per Week

Sports, Recreational Activities, Arts & Crafts, Trips, Cultural Activities, and so much more!  
For further information please call: (416) 746-5772 x 0

## JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION'S

### Women's Committee

### Presents...

## "Women and the Economy"

### A seminar about...

## MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

How to make it... How to grow it... How to spend it.

Saturday, June 27- 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Admission: \$5.00

LIGHT REFRESHMENT WILL BE SERVED

Information available at (416)746-5772 or www.jcassoc.org

## FUTURE LEADERS OF THE JAMAICA DIASPORA

In collaboration with

## THE JCA YOUTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Presents:

### The Third Annual JAMAICA SUMMIT

Connecting future leaders: solidifying our place in our homelands and Jamaica

Discussion:

The Business of Culture – Understanding the Business of Our Arts', Mastering the Art of our Business

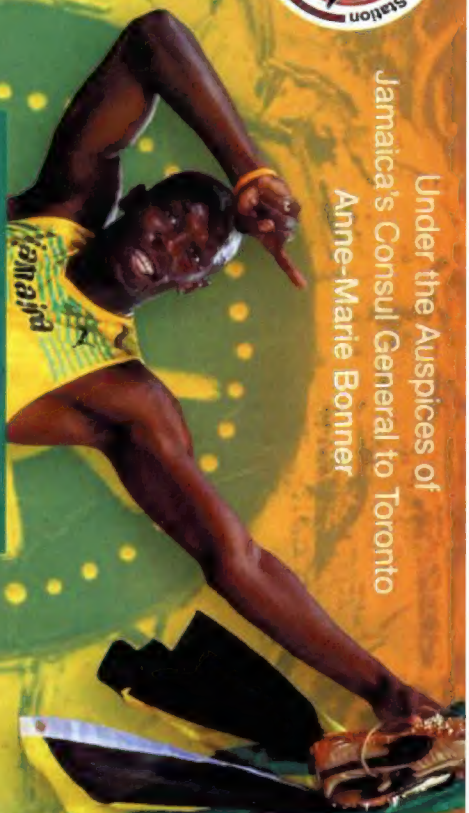
@ THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN CENTER

June 5, Friday 7:30pm





Under the Auspices of  
Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto  
Anne-Marie Bonner



Come and celebrate after the race...  
Community Late Nite with

# USAIN BOLT

Thursday June 11, 2009

(doors open @ 8:00 pm)  
JCA 995 Arrow Road

**MC**  
Allan Jones

**Comedy**  
Devon "Mi Get Mi Landed"  
Haughton, Sabu Grant,  
Marcia Brown

**Music**  
Steele  
Spex - FLOW 93.5

**Dance**  
Baby Boyz

**InfoLine**  
905.452.1911  
jonesandjones.ca



Hosted by  
Jamaican Canadian Association



**WESTERN UNION**

**Gully Creepa Contest**  
Judged by Usain  
Farley Flex  
Baby Boyz

**\$300 prize**

**Food**  
Willie's Jerk  
Brampton

Relive the  
Olympic Races...  
on screen

**Tickets \$15**



**WANTED:**  
**GREEN CHANGE AGENTS**

A Green Change Agent is a person whose presence, actions or thought processes cause a change from the traditional way of handling or thinking about the protection of the environment.

**Tel.: 416-663-2733 x 411**  
**Email: [greenchange@janeandfinchcentre.org](mailto:greenchange@janeandfinchcentre.org)**  
**[www.janeandfinchcentre.org](http://www.janeandfinchcentre.org)**

**Green Change Agents**

Green Change Agencies across Jane and Finch are seeking people who live, work or volunteer in Jane and Finch to become Green Change Agents. See list of Green Change Agencies below.

**earn \$15**

To become a Certified Green Change Agent, you will need to participate in a training program with a partnering Green Change Agency, where you will learn how to motivate others to save energy, waste less and maintain healthy lifestyles.

**for each household they register.**

You will also learn how to help community residents and local entrepreneurs calculate and reduce their carbon and footprint online using the City of Toronto's ZeroFootprint Calculator.

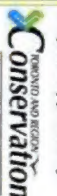
Green Change Agencies:



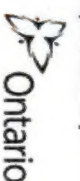
Training Provided By:



Project Supported By:



Project Funded By:



Campaign sponsored by:



Project Coordinated By:



**MARLBORON CONSULTING**  
Where vision and innovation connect...

Contact us at 416-663-2733 X 411 for more information or to register for an information session.